



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

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Our Ref: 271986

Mr Rod Lord  
Old Lodge Farm  
Coningsby Lane  
Fifield  
MAIDENHEAD  
SL6 2PF

7 January 2016

Dear Mr Lord,

Thank you for contacting the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding broadband. As a member of the Minister's correspondence team I apologise for the long delay it has taken to respond to you.

The Government is committed to improving the speed and availability of broadband across all of the United Kingdom. We have supported investment of £1.7 billion of public funding for improvements. We have done this in partnership with local bodies. They have detailed information about superfast roll out in your community, and I would recommend that you contact them to discuss superfast broadband in your neighbourhood.

To get value for money in the first two phases of superfast roll out, the local authority have focused on getting the best possible uplift of speed across the widest geographic area. This is usually by focusing on getting fibre optic cabling to the recognisable green street side cabinets. The local authority will continue to invest in superfast rollout in your community through to the end of the programme, including investing additional funds that occur as take up rises to deliver even more superfast broadband coverage. This could include interventions for those who receive broadband over a long or old copper cable.

The government has also provided a backstop for minimum speeds, starting in December 2015. For premises and communities who are currently experiencing very slow broadband speeds the government is making available the option of using the latest satellite technology to provide connections for those premises with a broadband speed of less than 2mbits/s. Your local authority broadband project will be able to provide more detail.

In some areas where conditions are particularly challenging, communities have explored self-funding models. Communities, companies and individuals can pursue their own solutions including an option of seeking or providing the gap funding themselves and organising delivery with BT (or other smaller providers such as Spitfire, Airband,

CallFlow, or Gigaclear). A number of communities have already joined together in discussions and planned for a collective solution, including options for fibre to the premises to give ultra-fast connections. Some of these providers have speciality community solutions for example: <http://www.gigaclear.com/connecting-my-community/> while others have created Community Interest Companies to help organise this.

An alternative to commercial provision is to use a community design, build and operate model. Community organisations like Broadband for the Rural North (<http://b4rn.org.uk/>) have built their own network rather than taking a commercial provider and it may be worthwhile having a discussion with them about their project and any lessons they have learnt. Your local authority broadband team should be able to advise you on this.

Further information about your connection and the Government's support for superfast broadband in the UK is available online.

Superfast Postcode checker:

<http://gosuperfastchecker.culture.gov.uk/>

Small Business Service:

<http://www.greatbusiness.gov.uk/>

0300 456 3565

OFCOM Advice for Businesses:

<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/ofcom-for-business-consumers/>

I hope this information is helpful. If you would like to contact DCMS again, please email [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk).

Best wishes,

Blake Patel

**Ministerial Support Team**